

MEMORANDUM

Monday, September 24, 2001

TO: The Honorable Johnnie Byrd, Speaker-Designate and Chairman of the Florida House of Representatives Procedural and Redistricting Council

RE: Remarks for the Florida Legislature's Public Hearing on Reapportionment held at Naples High School

For the record, my name is Chuck Mohlke. If it please this honorable panel, I appear here as the co-chair of Citizens For Fair Redistricting, a bipartisan coalition. You will hear later/have heard from two of my colleagues, co-chair Mike Carr and treasurer Fred Hardt. Citizens For Fair Redistricting is committed to equality of population and racial fairness as the principal standards to be used in the redistricting of the Congress and the Legislature.

Members, you have resolutions before you passed by the city councils of Naples and Bonita Springs, and Collier County's Board of Commissioners. These resolutions support our efforts to ensure that, following redistricting, Collier County remains aligned with neighboring west-coast counties only. It is my understanding that representatives of these jurisdictions will appear, or have appeared before you to present their views.

I have been asked why I believe our communities of interest here in southwest Florida need to be concerned about preserving the existing core of congressional district 14. That it is crucial that our contiguous and compact communities retain the ability to elect candidates of their choice.

In 1992, the legislature's leadership proposed that Collier County be included in a new congressional district with Dade County. This would have created an asymmetric district, retrogressing to an unbalanced district system that did not further the joint interests of our district's language- and racial-minority residents.

Maps of that redistricting scheme and correspondence with the then incumbent House Speaker T. K. Weatherall are included in the record submitted

for your review. In 1992, legislative maps always had major parts of Collier County tied into a district that, arguably, would have been carried by someone from Dade County.

Because Collier County is a covered jurisdiction under the provisions of Section 4(b) of the Federal Voting Rights Act, the 1992 Legislature was required to preclear its redistricting plans with the U. S. Department of Justice before any change could take effect.

Before the 1992 preclearance process could be completed, some lawmakers and voters filed a lawsuit asking the court to draw a plan because the Legislature was incapable of drawing one that would not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language-minority group, among other issues.

Ultimately, retired federal judge C. Clyde Adkins adopted the recommendations of an independent expert that kept Lee and Collier counties together with Charlotte County in a new congressional district that had the following characteristics:

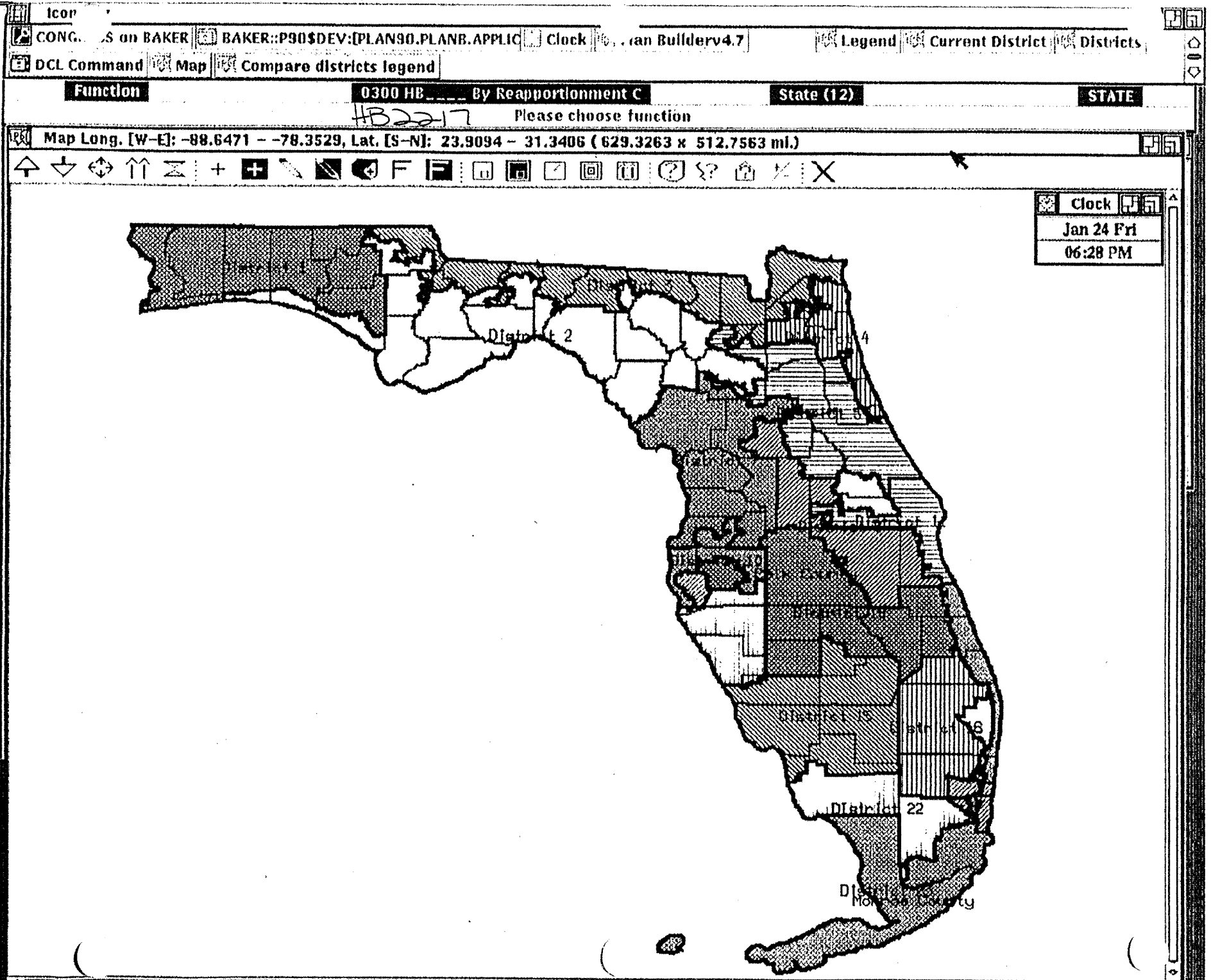
- It was geographically compact, and economically and politically cohesive;
- It had no history of thwarting minority-group interests; and
- It respected political boundaries and shared topographical features.

It is our hope that this panel will make similar recommendations to your House and Senate colleagues in 2002. Thank you for your courtesy in permitting me to present these views.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Mohlke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chuck Mohlke
Democratic County Chair and State Committeeman
Member of the Democratic National Committee



GREATER NAPLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

852 First Avenue South
Naples, Florida 33940
(813) 262-2424

February 18, 1992

The Honorable T. K. Weatherell
Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives [(904) 488-1450]
Room 420, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Mr. Speaker:

RE: Congressional Redistricting

I am in receipt of your letter of February 12, 1992 responding to my comments regarding congressional reapportionment forwarded to you on February 4. I should establish that my comments were made in response to the redistricting proposals incorporated in House Bill [HB] 2217 brought forward by the House Committee on Reapportionment for House action on February 12, the date of your letter. I understand that Reapportionment Committee Chairman Peter Wallace referred to the content of your letter during Floor debate on February 12 when responding to a question from Representative Bert Harris concerning the impact on Collier County of the prevailing Amendment 328, as modified, to HB 2217. In order to respond properly to the issues discussed in your February 12 letter, I am taking the liberty of quoting passages from it and responding in a manner that may be a useful addition to the record you and your House conferees will consult when you meet with your Senate counterparts on Wednesday, February 19 to resolve redistricting issues between the two bodies.

1. The Federal Voting Rights Act

The Federal Voting Rights Act has impinged on state legislative freedom. Collier and Hendry counties are Section 5 pre-clearance counties under the Act because of their Hispanic populations. The proposals linking the Hispanic communities in Dade to the Section 5 counties of Collier and Hendry are justified because they enfranchise these Hispanic communities.

The effect of HB 2217 on the Immokalee community would have been to place 49.2 percent of Collier's Hispanic population residing in Immokalee precincts 203 [4107 Hispanic persons], 204 [1991 Hispanic persons], and 205 [2673 Hispanic persons] in a proposed District 15 with Hendry, Lee, Charlotte, Glades, and Highlands counties.

If you and others in the House leadership were so concerned about enfranchising Collier Hispanics in the manner discussed in your February 12 letter, why was this not reflected in the Committee's proposed congressional districts incorporated in HB 2217?

Presumably, this dilution was brought to your attention following the submission of final amendments to HB 2217 on Friday, February 7, 1992. I presume this because there is nowhere in any public record of any such particular local concern for Hispanic enfranchisement in any testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportionment held in Collier County on October 25, 1991, or the testimony before the Committee in Hendry County on October 26, 1991, or the public comments made during the reapportionment teleconference held locally at Edison Community College on January 27, 1992.

Further, conversations with Hispanic leaders in the Immokalee community have not yet revealed any public record of support for any proposal to better enfranchise them by linking their community with a Dade district.

If I am in error in that regard, I know you will so advise me by sharing with me your file record of material submitted to you prior to the Floor debate on February 12 contending that Collier Hispanic enfranchisement will be furthered by linking the Immokalee community with a Dade district.

Respectfully, the content of your February 12 letter suggests that you presumed that Amendment 328, as modified, would be successful following Floor debate. May I enquire how you determined HB 2217 was lacking in regard to your expressed concern for enfranchising Collier's Hispanic population only in time to modify Amendment 328 shortly before Floor debate commenced on February 12?

In sum, the Greater Naples Civic Association wishes to retain a greater sense of community in Collier County. We believe this is best accomplished by following the view expressed by Justice Lewis Powell in 1983: "A legislator cannot represent his constituents properly, nor can voters from a fragmented district exercise the ballot intelligently, when a voting district is nothing more than an artificial unit divorced from, and indeed often in conflict with, the various communities established in the state."

2. Immokalee Support For A Dade-Based District

In fact, I have heard from folks in Immokalee who want to be included in a Dade-based Hispanic congressional district. These people think that they have a commonality of interest with Hispanics in Dade County.

The Hispanic population in the Immokalee community is almost exclusively Native-American of Central American nationality; they are preponderantly registered Democrats. The Dade-county Hispanic population is preponderantly Cuban-American and Republican. No recent events, to the best of my knowledge, indicate any efforts by the Dade-county Hispanic community to reach out to the Immokalee Hispanic community to assist them in improving their economic opportunities or their quality of life. The "folks" you refer to in your February 12 letter may have in mind a future collaborative effort among Hispanic individuals and groups in Immokalee and Dade counties that would lead, perhaps, to the development of certain common interests; but, I suggest strongly, no such commonality of interest exists at present, or has it at any time during the 1980's.

3. Commonality Of Interest In The Everglades National Park, Tamiami Trail [US-41], & Interstate 75 [I-75]

In addition, they [the Immokalee folks?] say that the Everglades National Park should have a Congressman who is concerned about the the activities on both sides of the Park and in maintaining the Tamiami Trail and Interstate 75.

It is tenuous to suggest that the Everglades National Park can be better served by a second-term Dade congresswoman living in the House-proposed District 17 than by an eighteen-term Dade congressman of the opposite political party living in House-proposed District 19. The Everglades National Park is, essentially, exclusive to proposed District 19. To suggest that the Immokalee folks you "heard from" would know of these distinction is implausible at best.

There is nothing in the recent history of the construction of I-75 or the proposed improvements to US-41 that even hints that any individual member of Congress has had, or even should have, any major influence on these roadway work programs. During his tenure in the U.S. Senate, Governor Chiles was influential in resolving right-of-way [ROW] acquisition problems that facilitated I-75 widening and construction.

Senator Graham, during his tenure as Florida's Governor, played an important role in resolving environmental problems in order to expedite construction of I-75.

But, to suggest that an individual member of Congress from a new District would be instrumental in "maintaining the Tamiami Trail and Interstate 75" would likely be news to FDOT Secretary Watt. Maintenance dollars are more the province of the District 1 office of FDOT and the Naples/Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization [MPO] than any member of Congress.

It is also interesting that the House-adopted congressional districting plan has US-41 as the boundary between proposed District 17 and proposed District 19. How this would enhance a roadway maintenance program for US-41 is not clear to me.

The Greater Naples Civic Association urges your favorable consideration of retaining Collier County in a west-coast congressional district that would include neighboring Lee and Charlotte counties. The present District 13 includes most of coastal Collier County's urban area and a majority of the County's population, and all of Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota counties. We hope you will give consideration to continuing with a similar plan in your congressional redistricting efforts.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Beebe, Jr.
Executive Vice President

cc: Chairman Peter Rudy Wallace,
House Committee on Reapportionment
Suite 801, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Chairman Jack D. Gordon,
Senate Committee on Reapportionment
Suite 726, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
OF COLLIER COUNTY
NAPLES, EVERGLADES CITY, IMMOKALEE,
CITY OF MARCO ISLAND & GOLDEN GATE
FLORIDA

3050 North Horseshoe Drive, Suite 120
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James Warnken
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NCH Healthcare System, Inc.

September 24, 2001

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee:

As Chairman of the Economic Development Council of Collier County, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of the EDC, I would like to submit our strongest possible support for a Southwest Florida based Congressional District, and equally strong opposition to any proposal that would seek to combine portions of Southwest Florida with Southeast Florida.

Presently, the 14th Congressional District includes Collier, Lee and southern Charlotte counties. Our current congressional district is geographically compact, economically and politically cohesive, and has well-represented minority interests. We enjoy strong elected representation that understands the unique needs of our citizens and appreciates the defining attributes of our region of Florida. Our elected state and federal representatives who live in our region do an outstanding job, are well-known and highly visible participants in our community's activities and institutions.

Over the last decade, Collier County has experienced a 65% growth rate and has been the second fastest growing Metropolitan Statistical Area in the United States over the past two decades. Lee County has grown by 32% over the past decade. With our significant rate of population growth, Southwest Florida has earned more federal and state representation, not less. In fact, the population of Collier and Lee County combined exceeds the size of a new congressional district.

Southwest Florida is achieving great progress in coming together as a region, with historic levels of cooperation among its citizens and institutions. We work collaboratively in areas such as economic development, workforce training, transportation funding, and water management, to name just a few. Partnerships have been formed which reflect a commitment to regional alliances to address the region's unique, fast-growing challenges and opportunities. Our community of common interest shares many institutions of education, governance and commerce, including Florida Gulf Coast University, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, and Southwest Florida International Airport. The message is clear; Southwest Florida is a regional community of common interest.

The severing of any part of the Southwest Florida region so as to include it with the east coast of Florida would result in disenfranchised voters who may not be represented by people who live, work, and provide community leadership in our region. Given our high rate of growth, unique attributes, common interests and

special needs, now more than ever we need the strongest possible local and regional representation and leadership.

If you examine the 23 current Congressional Districts in Florida, only one shares the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, District 20. It shares two coasts because it includes Monroe County, the only county in Florida with two coasts. However, Monroe County has no population center on the Gulf Coast, only the Everglades National Park.

The population centers of Southeast and Southwest Florida are physically and geographically separated by one of the largest contiguous public wildernesses in the eastern United States, the Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. Together, these create a 3,483 square mile geopolitical separation between the east and west coast population centers that is larger than any single Florida County, in fact larger than two states.

On behalf of the Economic Development Council of Collier County and its members, I respectfully request that the Florida Legislature ensure that Southwest Florida's communities and citizens remain united in a Southwest Florida Congressional District with boundaries that are logical, compact, contiguous and representative of our region's shared interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan D. Reynolds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "R".

Alan D. Reynolds, AICP
Chairman, Economic Development Council of Collier County



The Chamber of Southwest Florida represents regional employers in Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades and Collier Counties. Our interest is to see representation for Southwest Florida from Southwest Florida.

New Congressional and Legislative districts for Southwest Florida must be geographically cohesive and not attached to east coast districts.

Policy statement on Redistricting

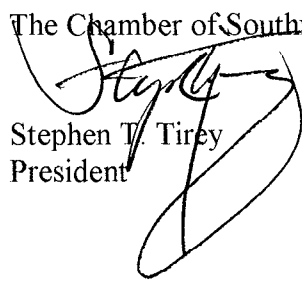
The Chamber of Southwest Florida, board of directors officially supports redistricting plans that assure its representatives in the Florida Legislature and U.S. Congress reside in SW Florida.

Further, the CSWF supports "cohesive" districts whose geographic boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest Florida. The Chamber specifically rejects redistricting plans that may link SW Florida with any political districts on the east coast.

The CSWF believes our rapid growth and approach to problem solving reflects the unique character of our area. We urge organizations, associations, chambers and individual voters to speak up at public hearings in September and to urge our lawmakers to draw boundaries that preserve or enhance opportunities for representation from the Southwest Florida coastal counties and those immediately adjacent to us.

*Adopted by majority vote of the Board of Directors of The Chamber of Southwest Florida
July 16, 2001*

The Chamber of Southwest Florida


Stephen T. Tirey
President

**FLORIDA HOUSE AND SENATE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEES**

September 24, 2001 6:00 p.m.

Naples High School

**Respectfully submitted by: Jennifer J. Edwards
Collier County Supervisor of Elections**



JENNIFER J. EDWARDS

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Collier Government Complex
3301 Tamiami Trail East, Building B
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Building
Naples, Florida 34112-4907
Telephone: 941/774-8450
Fax: 941/774-9468

Dear Redistricting Committee Members:

When Florida's legislative district lines were finally settled in 1992, Collier County found itself apportioned among four House of Representative and two Senate districts. The House districts caused the greatest distress for Collier residents. Today, ten years later, many residents still are unsure as to which Representative represents them! Because District 76 serves most of the population of the county, our residents assume that Representative Dudley Goodlette is their voice in Tallahassee regardless of where they reside in the county.

House Districts 75, 77 and 102 all back into the county taking portions of communities with little regard to neighborhoods or communities of interest. In fact, District 102 forms a bizarre shape west of Collier Blvd. It actually passes through the middle of a condominium unit several hundred yards from the County Courthouse. This is because the original streambed that was used as a boundary line was relocated and a condo constructed in its place. The portions of these districts within Collier County are far removed from their district base. Just how much contact do these residents have with their Representatives and what do they have in common with the residents who live in the largest portions of the districts which are located in other counties? (A district map is attached.)

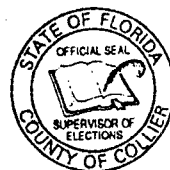
To improve this situation for future elections, I offer the following recommendations:

1. Minimize the number of House Districts that contain limited portions of Collier County.
2. Do not connect Collier with an "East Coast" district. There is simply no community of interest across Alligator Alley.
3. Use our existing precincts as the building blocks for your maps. They do not cut through neighborhoods or developments.
4. Use major roads or geographic features to create your boundaries.
5. Respect the communities of interest that we are presenting to you. These include not only municipal boundaries, but also regions of our county that express themselves as communities through independent districts and civic organizations. (A map and list of communities of interest are attached.)

This year Florida's Legislature has technology to shape districts that truly reflect Florida's many communities. Let logic and common sense guide the lines this year. Compact and meaningful districts will earn all of Florida's elected officials the respect of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Edwards
Supervisor of Elections



Identified Communities of Interest in Collier County

Municipalities:

City of Naples

City of Marco Island

City of Everglades

Traditional Communities within Collier County:

Immokalee: An agricultural and business area that includes a high percentage of minority residents. The community includes an airport facility with a satellite Free Trade Zone and a substantial and active redevelopment district as well as an independent fire district. The area is included in precincts 792,793,794.

Golden Gate Estates: A unique area zoned for single family homes. The area has unique concerns with conservation and wetland areas. Residents in this area have held cityhood discussions. These residents tend to identify strongly with their community. Golden Gate Estates has its own, very active, civic association. The area is included in precincts 650,651,652,654 and the western portions of precinct 791.

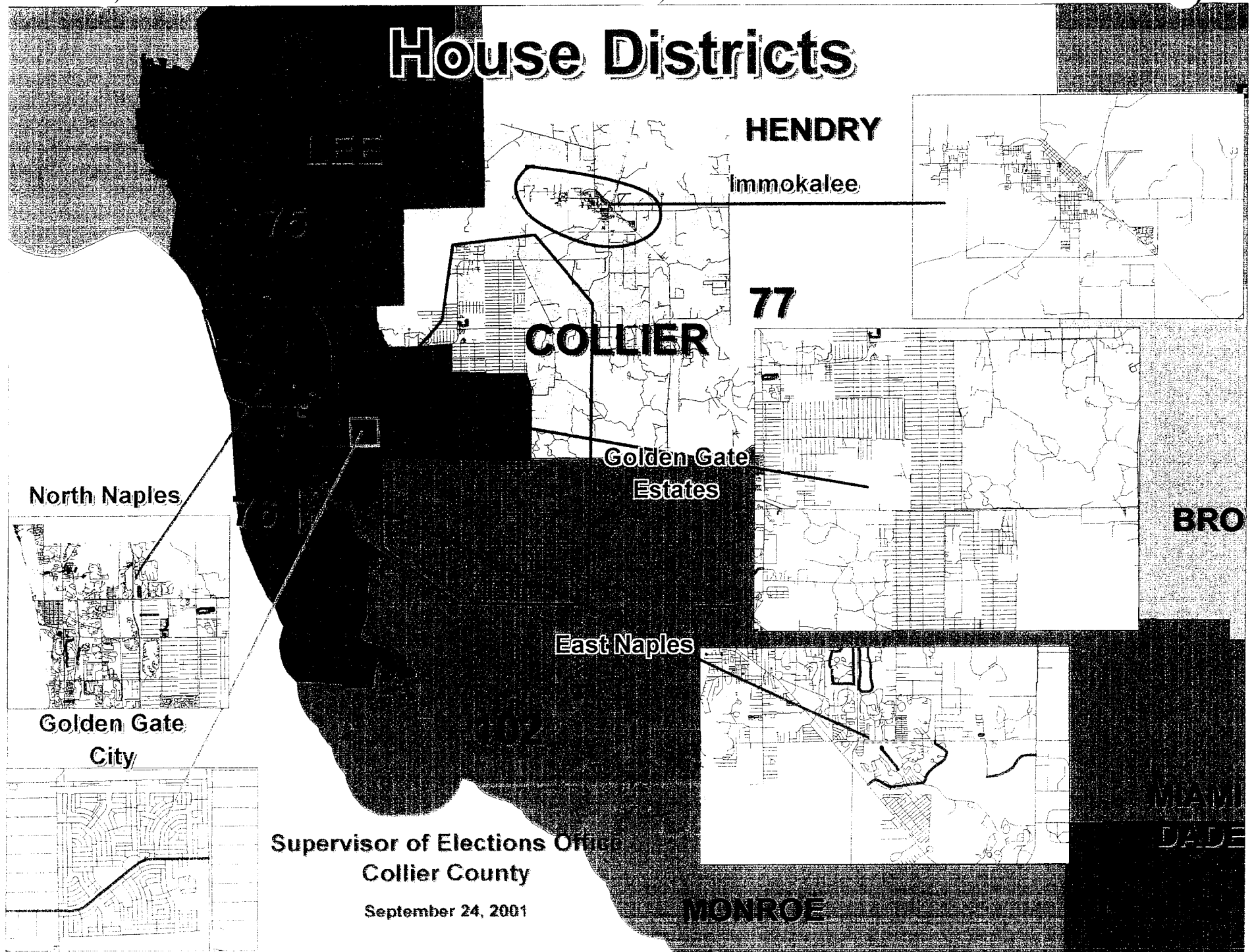
Golden Gate City: This well-established community contains its own business district and has its own civic association. It is one of the oldest subdivided areas in Collier County. Golden Gate City is formed by precincts 623,624,625,626, and 627.

East Naples: This community is serviced by its own independent fire district and the county's oldest civic association. It contains both commercial and residential developments with a substantial minority component. The county has recently established a major redevelopment district in the area. Precincts traditionally considered to be in East Naples include: 251,252,253,254,255,256,257,628,629,630,631,632,633,634,635,635, 636,637,638,639,643,and 645

North Naples: This area is bounded on the north by Lee County, the east by Interstate 75, the south by Pine Ridge Road and the west by the Gulf of Mexico. This is an upscale area that has experienced rapid growth. It is covered by its own independent fire district and is represented by a well established civic association and numerous property owner groups. Precincts in North Naples include:551, 552, 553, 554,555,602,603,604, 605,606,607,608,609,610,611,and 612.

These communities of interest, although not municipalities, have identified themselves historically as real communities. As such, we believe that they merit the consideration of the Redistricting Committees. The most vital factor in determining the existence of a community of interest is the identification of the residents with a particular community as expressed by their organizations.

House Districts



Senate Districts

25

Immokalee

29

Golden Gate
Estates

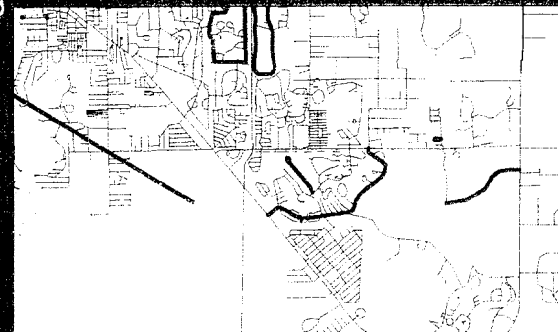
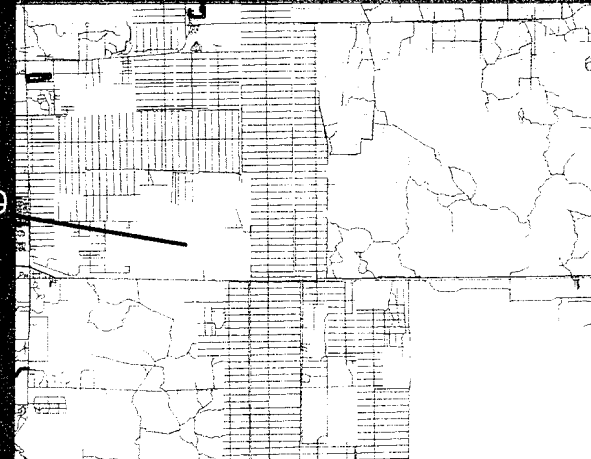
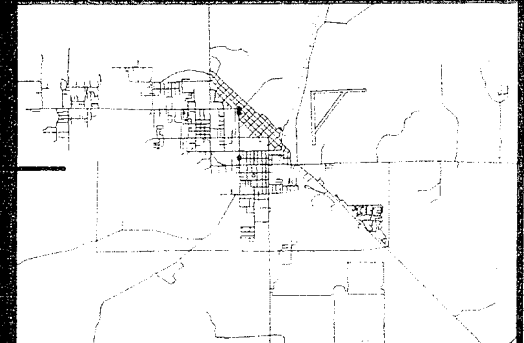
East Naples

North Naples

Golden Gate
City

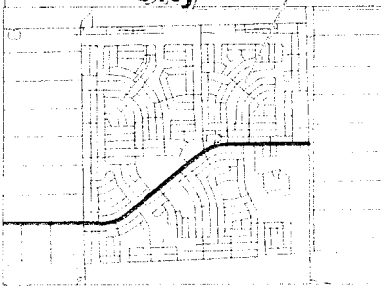
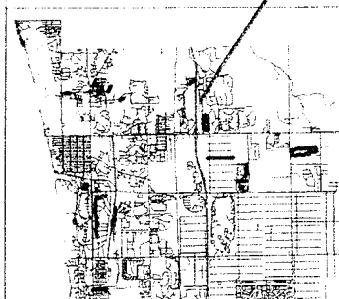
Supervisor of Elections Of
Collier County

September 24, 2001



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Redistricting Committee
September 25, 2001

Mr. Chairman & Committee Members

I am here today to urge you to develop a congressional redistricting policy for Southwest Florida that provides for cohesive districts that are compatible with the *unique* characteristics of South West Florida. These districts to be compatible with the tropical environment that is bounded by the Everglades on the east and the Gulf of Mexico on the west.

Due to the rapid growth over the past decade' Congressional District 14 now represents a 37% growth in population. This is approximately 180,000 more than called for by constitutional requirements. There obviously will be a change in congressional boundaries.

Lee, Collier, and Charlotte Counties are geographically *unique*, integrated by common transportation networks, i.e., hurricane evacuation routes, land and water management, and other common involvement in regional agencies and taxing authorities, local economies tied to similar resources, such as tourist activities related to the Gulf, and also higher education concerns.

To know and understand the legislative needs and requirements for such congressional districts it is imperative the congressional representatives reside within the *unique* environs of South West Florida.

Bob Shrader
2894 Sandel Wood Circle West
Ft. Myers, FL 33908

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution defines the obligation to reapportion the United States House of Representatives following each decennial census "according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons;" and,*

WHEREAS, *Article X, Section 8, of the Florida Constitution establishes that "each decennial census of the state taken by the United States shall be the official census of the state;" and,*

WHEREAS, *the primary federal statutes which must be considered in redistricting are the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 United States Code, 1973, and Public Law 94-171, providing for the uses of decennial-census population data in reapportioning and redistricting United States House of Representatives; and,*

WHEREAS, *the Florida Legislature has been in receipt of Public Law 94-171 population data from the 2000 United States Census since March 27, 2001 and has begun the process of drawing new boundaries for Florida's 25 U. S. House congressional districts; and,*

WHEREAS, *since 1992, Collier and neighboring Lee County have been included in Congressional District 14 and have been well served by Congressman Porter Goss, a representative familiar with the common needs and economic interests of both counties; and,*

WHEREAS, *Congressional District 14 has demonstrated that it is geographically compact, and economically and politically cohesive with no history of thwarting minority-group interests; and,*

WHEREAS, *existing District 14 respects existing political boundaries and shared topographical features designed with strict adherence to the equal population one person-one vote rule; and*

WHEREAS, *Collier and Lee counties are located in southwest Florida with communities of interest shared commonly with its neighboring west-coast counties; and,*

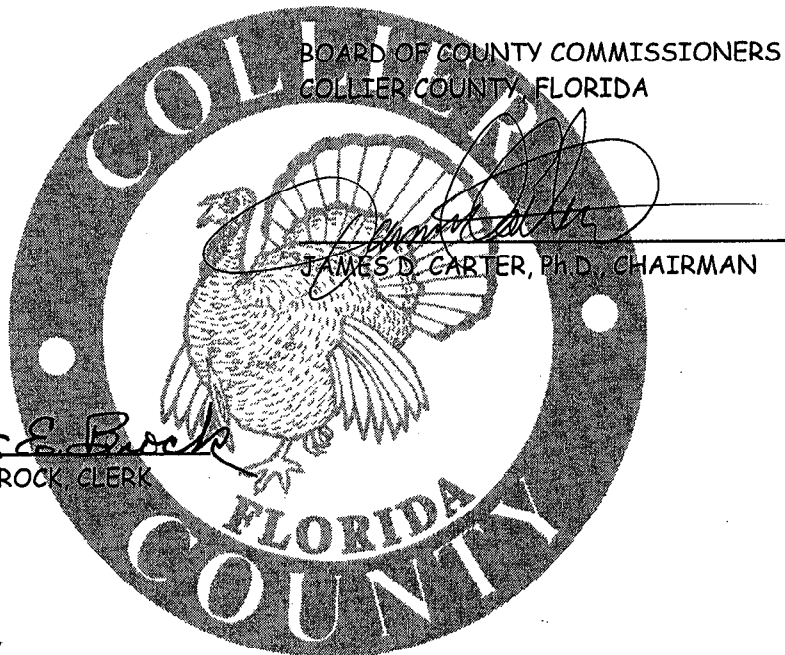
WHEREAS, *including Collier County in a new congressional district with southeast Florida's Broward, Miami/Dade, and/or Monroe counties would create an asymmetric District inconsistent with standards important to the existing district's citizens; and,*

WHEREAS, *the Citizens For Fair Redistricting, a political action committee comprised of both major political parties, was established for the purpose of supporting efforts to ensure that Collier and Lee counties remain aligned with neighboring west-coast counties following the completion of the redistricting process initiated recently by the Florida Legislature; and,*

WHEREAS, *at a regularly-scheduled meeting of the Collier County Board of Commissioners on July 31, 2001, Citizens For Fair Redistricting appealed to the Board of Commissioners to support their efforts.*

NOW THEREFORE, *be it proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Collier County, Florida that on behalf of the citizens of Collier County, we support Citizens For Fair Redistricting in their efforts to ensure that during the redistricting process Collier County be aligned with its contiguous west-coast counties and communities of interest and not be included in Congressional Districts extending from Florida's southeast counties of Broward, Miami/Dade, or Monroe.*

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 11TH Day of September, 2001



ATTEST:

Dwight E. Brock
DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK

Board of Collier County Commissioners

3301 East Tamiami Trail • Naples, Florida 34112-4977
(941) 774-8097 • Fax (941) 774-3602



Donna Fiala
District 1

James D. Carter, Ph.D.
District 2

Tom Henning
District 3

Pamela S. Mac'Kie
District 4

Jim Coletta
District 5

September 4, 2001

Mr. Wayne E. Daltry, Executive Director
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
4980 Bayline Drive, 4th Floor
North Ft. Myers, Florida 33917-3909

RE: Redistricting

Dear Mr. Daltry:

The legislative and congressional apportionment process is now underway in the State of Florida. Hearings will be held in September to gather public input regarding redistricting at several southwest Florida locations, as follows:

September 24th, 1:00 p.m., LaBelle City Hall
September 24th, 6:00 p.m., Naples High School Auditorium
September 25th, 1:00 p.m., Florida Gulf Coast University

Collier County is concerned that Districts on the east coast of Florida may be extended westward to include all or part of one or more counties in southwest Florida. We believe it is in the best interest of the citizens of southwest Florida to establish legislative and congressional Districts that keep southwest Florida counties aligned together and not have them be attached to east coast Districts. We are scheduled to adopt a Proclamation to that effect at our next Board of County Commissioners meeting on September 11, 2001, and will forward the Proclamation to the Apportionment Committee. We encourage your governing body to do the same. A copy of the proposed proclamation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Carter", is written over a horizontal line.

James D. Carter, Ph.D., Chairman
Commissioner District 2

DW:dew

Margaret Allen
Business People United for
Political Action Committee

August 27, 2001

Johnnie Byrd, Chairman
House Procedural & Redistricting Council
The Capitol, Room 418
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Re: Congressional Redistricting in Southwest Florida

Dear Chairman Byrd:

As an active member of the Business People United for Political Action Committee of Lee County, I strongly support the Resolution on Redistricting in Southwest Florida. This Resolution passed unanimously on Tuesday August 27, 2001.

Please find attached a copy of this resolution for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret M. Allen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

BUPAC
Business People United for Political Action Committee
Post Office Box 7326
Fort Myers, Florida 33911-7326

This Congressional Redistricting Resolution was presented and passed unanimously by the Business United for Political Action Committee of Lee County, Florida on Tuesday August 27, 2001.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the year 2000, U.S. Census has allotted the State of Florida two additional U.S. Congressional Districts to present the population increase over the past ten years.

WHEREAS, Lee, Collier, and Charlotte Counties are unique geographically and distinct Southwest Floridian in many respects, such as, integrated by common transportation networks, joint involvement in regional agencies and taxing authorities, local economies tied to similar resources, and many other aspects.

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Congressional District presently represented by Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties; included 565,000 constituents in the years 1990-2000.

WHEREAS, the present population of Lee, Collier and Charlotte Counties is 833,892, which exceeds the new Congressional guideline of 630,000 to 650,000 populations.

WHEREAS, the population of Lee and Charlotte County would be below the new Congressional guideline.

WHEREAS, the population of Lee and Collier County would be above the new congressional guidelines.

WHEREAS, a new U.S. Congressional District that would be wholly contained within the boundaries of Lee, part of Charlotte and Collier Counties, would be within the new guidelines for determining the size of congressional districts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the expressed desire of the Business People United for Political Action Committee of Lee County, that a U.S. Congressional District be one that represents a unique and distinctly Southwest Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the expressed desire of the Business People United for Political Action Committee of Lee County, that all members of the legislative delegation who represent Lee County are requested to draft, introduce, sponsor, and actively seek passage of legislation in their respective legislative bodies that the uniqueness of Southwest Florida be represented within the U.S. Congress.

W. Theodore Etzel

September 17, 2001

Senator Burt L. Saunders
3301 E. Tamiami Tr. Bldg.F Ste #304
Naples, Fl. 34112

Dear Senator Saunders:

I am a citizen of and business owner in Collier County. I understand that there is a possible desire from congressional politicians on the east coast of Florida to include parts of Southwest Florida in their districts. I want you to know that I am absolutely against this.

I am a native Floridian having grown up in the Miami area, specifically in Coral Gables. I attended college at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. My family and I lived in Orlando and then Atlanta and have resided in Collier County these past six and a half years. While in Georgia I saw the gerrymandering of congressional districts first hand. I want nothing of the sort here in Florida. Also, having lived on both sides of the state now, I can attest to the fact that there is a different atmosphere here in Southwest Florida that needs its own representation. Our issues and concerns are of a different nature than of those of the east coast. Just as Dade and Broward counties would not like to be represented by west coast delegates, I do not wish to be represented by east coast delegates.

Senator Saunders, I am an American first, a Floridian second and a Collier County resident third. With our structure of government being of the people and for the people we need our own west coast people representing our own west coast district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Theodore Etzel III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

W. Theodore Etzel III
President

Agenda Item 25
Meeting of 9/5/01

RESOLUTION NO. 01- 9302

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE POSITION THAT THE CITY OF NAPLES AND COLLIER COUNTY REMAIN IN A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SOLELY WITHIN THE WEST COAST OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA; REQUESTING THAT THE REPRESENTATION OF THE CITIZENS OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BE PRESERVED AND ENHANCED AND NOT DIMINISHED BY HAVING ANY PORTION OF COLLIER COUNTY INCLUDED IN AN EAST COAST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT; DIRECTING A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION BE SENT TO GOVERNOR JEB BUSH, THE FLORIDA SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE AND THE FLORIDA HOUSE PROCEDURAL AND REDISTRICTING COUNCIL MEMBERS IN THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA LEGISLATURES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution defines the obligation to reapportion the United States House of Representatives following each decennial census "according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons;" and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 8, of the Florida Constitution establishes that "each decennial census of the state taken by the United States shall be the official census of the state;" and

WHEREAS, the primary federal statutes which must be considered in redistricting are the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 United States Code, 1973, and Public Law 94-171, providing for the uses of decennial-census population data in reapportioning and redistricting United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has been in receipt of Public Law 94-171 population data from the 2000 United States Census since March 27, 2001 and has begun the process of drawing new boundaries for Florida's 25 U.S. House congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, redistricting is the process of redrawing district lines every ten years for Congress, state House and state Senate based upon the latest census counts; and

WHEREAS, the population the State of Florida has increased to nearly 16 million people; and

WHEREAS, Florida will send two (2) additional Congressmen to Washington D.C. in 2003 and state House and Senate Districts will be redrawn within the state; and

WHEREAS, the population in the State of Florida increased 23% while the population in Southwest Florida increased at a much higher percentage; and

RESOLUTION 01- 9302

Page 2

- WHEREAS, the population of Collier County increased by 65% and Lee County increased by 31%; and
- WHEREAS, since 1992, Collier and neighboring Lee County have been included in Congressional District 14 and have been well served by Congressman Porter Goss, a representative familiar with the common needs and economic interests of both counties; and
- WHEREAS, Congressional District 14 has demonstrated that it is geographically compact, and economically and politically cohesive with no history of thwarting minority-group interests; and
- WHEREAS, existing District 14 respects existing political boundaries and shared topographical features designed with strict adherence to the equal population, one person-one vote rule; and
- WHEREAS, Collier and Lee counties are located in southwest Florida with communities of interest shared commonly with its neighboring west-coast counties; and
- WHEREAS, new Congressional and Legislative Districts for Southwest Florida must be geographically cohesive and compact; and
- WHEREAS, including Collier County in a new congressional district with southeast Florida's Broward, Miami/Dade, and/or Monroe counties would create an asymmetric district inconsistent with standards important to the existing district's citizens; and
- WHEREAS, the communities of Collier and Lee counties are geographically separated from the communities of the east coast by the Everglades and Big Cypress Basin; and
- WHEREAS, infrastructure issues to include transportation network, affordable housing, water supply, water management, flood protection and environmental resource protection in the west coast counties are interrelated but are separate from those infrastructure issues in east coast counties; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Naples, a community in Collier County and Southwest Florida, supports redistricting that preserves and enhances its Southwest Florida governmental representation as a part of a compact contiguous district that remains with its neighboring west coast counties; and
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA:
- Section 1. That Naples and Collier County remain in a congressional district solely within the west coast counties of the State of Florida resulting in a compact and cohesive district.

RESOLUTION 01- 9302


Page 3

Section 2. That the representation of the citizens of Naples as part of Southwest Florida be preserved and enhanced and not diminished by having any portion of Collier County included in an east coast congressional district.

Section 3. That this Resolution be delivered to Governor Jeb Bush, the Florida Senate Reapportionment Committee and the Florida House Procedural and Redistricting Council in the Southwest Florida Legislatures.


Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

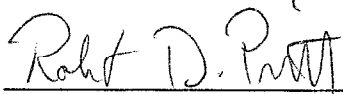
PASSED IN OPEN AND REGULAR SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA, THIS 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2001.


Bonnie R. MacKenzie, Mayor

Attest:

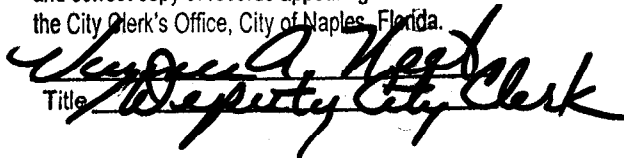
Approved as to form
and legality by:


Tara A. Norman, City Clerk
M:\REF\COUNCIL\RES\01-9302


Beverly Grady, City Attorney

Date filed with City Clerk: 9/7/01

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true
and correct copy of records appearing in the files of
the City Clerk's Office, City of Naples, Florida.


Title Deputy City Clerk

Mr. & Mrs. James Forman

James D. Forman

3763 Jungle Plum Dr. E.
Naples, FL 34114
Fax (941) 353-2030
jforman969@aol.com

September 20, 2001

Senator Burt L. Saunders
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Building F, Suite 304
Naples, FL 34112

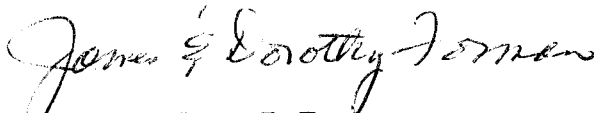
Dear Senator Saunders:

We wish to express our concerns regarding redistricting of our region of Florida.

We strongly urge that Southwest Florida retain its unique jurisdiction over this unique area. It is imperative that our representatives know and understand our needs and concerns and thus must themselves be from this region. Our districts should not extend East of Lake Okeechobee or the Hendry, Collier, or Monroe county lines.

In any event, Collier and Lee Counties must remain intact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James & Dorothy Forman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the couple.

Mr. & Mrs. James D. Forman



City of Cape Coral

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Arnold Gibbs
Chief of Police
City of Cape Coral

September 14, 2001

Senator Burt Saunders
3301 East Tamiami Trail, Bldg F, Suite 304
Naples, Fl. 34112


Dear Senator Saunders:

As a proud resident of the greater Southwest Florida area and the City of Cape Coral in particular, I felt compelled to submit my individual input into the very important issue of congressional redistricting.

As a long term resident of the east coast, It is my opinion that it is politically infeasible and highly improbable that an east coast resident will represent the interests of Southwest Florida with the same fervor and commitment as they would the interest of their east coast constituents. The fact is that Southwest Florida's political interests are, in many respects, different from those espoused by east coast residents. As such, it would be quite unrealistic to expect a representative from that side of the state to support or represent our interests over those of their friends, associates, neighbors, and east cost constituents in general.

Southwest Floridians deserve to have congressional representation in the person of a Southwest Florida resident who shares the same interests as the constituents he/she is elected to represent. Therefore, it is vitally important that Southwest Florida continue to remain a separate congressional district.

Sincerely,


Arnold A. Gibbs
Chief of Police





Ron Hamel
Gulf Citrus Growers

Ron Hamel
Executive Vice President
and
General Manager

"Statement"
Gulf Citrus Growers Association
Southwest Florida Redistricting

On behalf of southwest Florida "Gulf " growers, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association would like to go on the record in support of redistricting plans which will enhance the collective interest of the citizens and businesses of southwest Florida. Our association represents 147 citrus growers and 114,000 acres of citrus in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. We produce about twenty-five percent of Florida's total citrus crop.

We feel that southwest Florida is a community of common interest with an integrated transportation system; a regional educational network via Florida Gulf Coast University; joint involvement in regional agencies including the southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; and a local economy that is regional in nature, with a strong reliance on agricultural, service and tourism industries in all counties.

Further, we feel that representatives who live, work and drive in southwest Florida will best understand the region's issues related to growth, transportation, education and the economy.

We have concerns that redistricting in southwest Florida, using bi-coastal or otherwise split districts, could ultimately result in less representation in one of the state's and nation's fastest growing regions.

In summary, the association feels that representation by leaders who are linked geographically to our region in the Florida legislature and in the U. S. Congress is in the best interest of southwest Florida.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to continuing to work with the committee(s) in the coming months.

John R. Little, M.D.
Veora M. Little, CRNA

180 Edgemere Way So.
Naples, Florida 34105

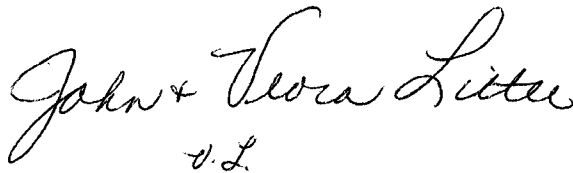
Fax 1-941-649-4202
Home Phone 1-941-649-4202
Email Veoralit@aol.com

September 24, 2001

To whom it may concern:

As long standing members of the Collier County community, we have seen South West Florida flourish. It has also suffered growing pains that are specific to our region. Redistricting would not serve the people of Collier County wisely. It is our hope that we can remain represented on the west coast with those who live and work here. Thank you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John & Veora Little". Below the main signature, there is a smaller, less legible signature that appears to be "v.L."

Dr. John and Veora Little

MATTSONMARINE

QUALITY BOAT SALES & SERVICE

Russ Mattson
Mattson Marine, Quality Boat Sale

E-MAIL: DealsBoats@aol.com • SALES: 941-283-5557 • SERVICE: 941-283-4334

P.O. Box 13 • Pineland, Florida 33945 • Fax 941-283-7477

September 14, 2001

Senator Burt Saunders
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Building F, Suite 304
Naples, FL 34112

Dear Senator Saunders,

I am greatly concerned with the proposed redistricting of the Congressional Districts in south Florida.

Southwest Florida and Southeast Florida are as different as night and day, and we want to keep it that way. Sharing a representative with another distinctly different section of Florida would result in us being represented by outsiders who, unless they actually live here, wouldn't understand our needs.

Please do whatever is necessary to see that we, in Southwest Florida, keep our local Representative in Washington.

Sincerely,

Russ Mattson

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2001

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HONDA
MARINE

PROSPORTS

SeaCraft

MERCURY
The Water Calls

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution defines the obligation to reapportion the United States House of Representatives following each decennial census "according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons"; and
- WHEREAS, Article X, Section 8, of the Florida Constitution establishes that "each decennial census of the state taken by the United States shall be the official census of the state"; and
- WHEREAS, the primary federal statutes which must be considered in redistricting are the Voting Rights of 1965, 42 United States Code, 1973, and Public Law 94-171, providing for the uses of decennial-census population data in reapportioning and redistricting United States House of Representatives; and
- WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has been in receipt of Public Law 94-171 population data from the 2000 United States Census since March 27, 2001 and has begun the process of drawing new boundaries for Florida's 25 U.S. House congressional districts; and
- WHEREAS, Bonita Springs has been included in Congressional District 14 and have been well served by Congressman Porter Goss, a representative familiar with the common needs and economic interests of Collier and Lee Counties; and
- WHEREAS, Congressional District 14 has demonstrated that it is geographically compact, and economically and politically cohesive with no history of thwarting minority-group interests; and
- WHEREAS, existing District 14 respects existing political boundaries and shared topographical features designed with strict adherence to the equal population, one person-one vote rule; and
- WHEREAS, Bonita Springs is located in southwest Florida with communities of interest shared commonly with its neighboring west-coast counties; and

WHEREAS, including Bonita Springs in a new congressional district with southeast Florida's Broward, Miami/Dade, and/or Monroe counties would create an asymmetric district inconsistent with standards important to the existing district's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens For Fair Redistricting, a political action committee comprises of both major parties, was established for the purpose of supporting efforts to ensure that the City of Bonita Springs remain aligned with neighboring west-coast counties following the completion of the redistricting process initiated recently by the Florida Legislature; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the City Council of the City of Bonita Springs, Florida that on behalf of the citizens of Bonita Springs, we support Citizens For Fair Redistricting in their efforts to ensure that during the redistricting process Bonita Springs be aligned with its contiguous west-coast counties and communities of interest and not be included in Congressional Districts extending from Florida's southeast counties of Broward, Miami/Dade, or Monroe.

CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA



Paul D. Pass, Mayor



TO: Senator Daniel Webster, Chairman, Senate Committee on Reapportionment
Rep. Donnie Boyd, Chairman, Florida House Redistricting

Eugenie Roberts

The time for politics has passed.

The time for farmers has arrived.

Southwest Florida has earned
the right to a strong, common voice,
in Tallahassee and in Washington.

We are one community of
interest. We should remain
one community at the polls.

We support the plan presented
by the Citizens for Fair Re-districting,
and urge its passing.

Thank you for your consideration.

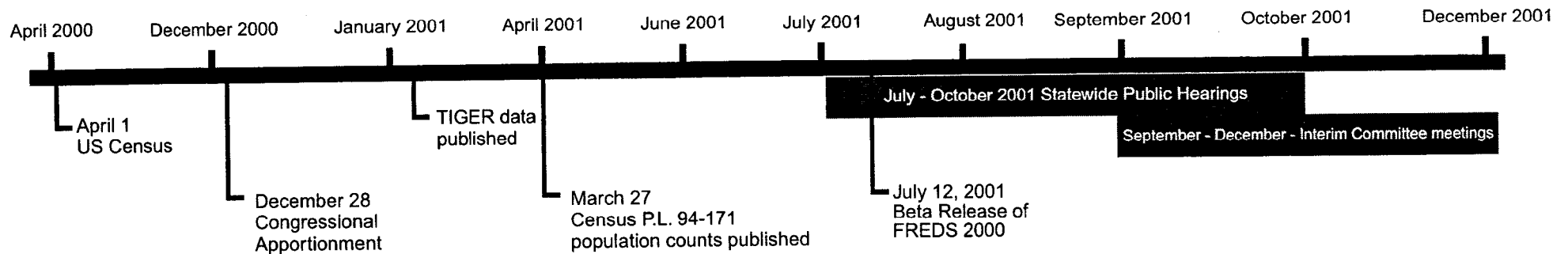
Eugenie B. Roberts

Eugenie B. Roberts

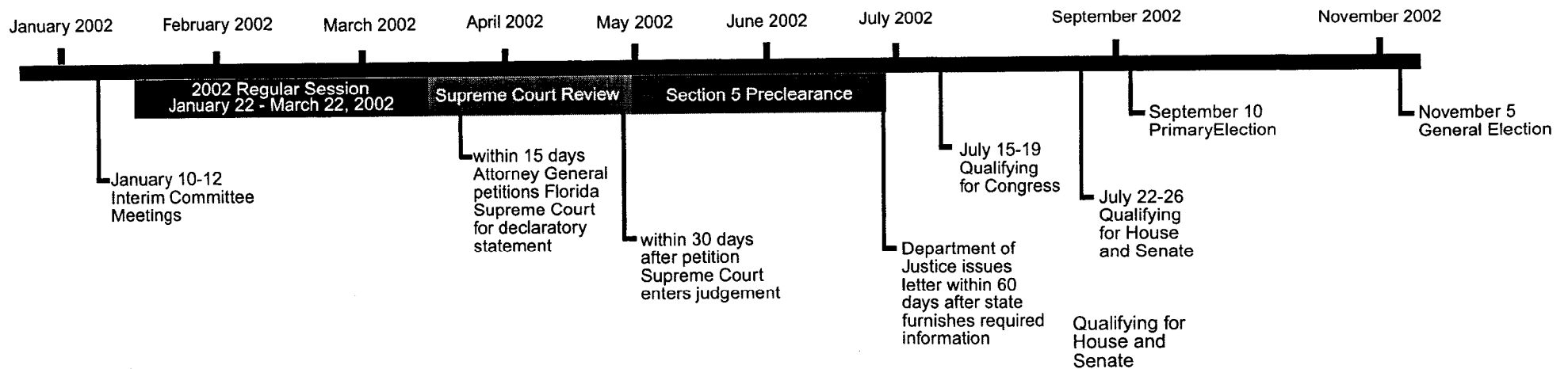
376 Yucca Rd

Naples FL 34102

Reapportionment Timeline 2001



Reapportionment Timeline 2002



This letter was submitted by Anne McDonald, Secretary, Marco Island Association of Realtors, at the Redistricting Public Hearing, 6:00 PM, September 24, 2001, Naples High School Auditorium, Naples, Florida.

Similar letters were submitted by 71 members of the Marco Island Association of Realtors.



**McFADDEN &
SPROWLS**

MARCO ISLAND OFFICE
928 N. COLLIER BLVD.
MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145
BUS. (941) 394-8121
(800) 733-8121
FAX (941) 394-9508

September 18, 2001

Johnnie Byrd, Chairman
House Procedural & Redistricting Council
The Capital, Room 418
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Re: Congressional Redistricting in Southwest Florida

Dear Chairman Byrd:

The Board of Directors of the Marco Island Area Association of Realtors voted unanimously on August 30, 2001 to strongly support redistricting plans that assure its representatives in the Florida Legislature and U.S. Congress reside in Southwest Florida.

This association supports "cohesive," districts whose geographic boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest Florida. This association specifically rejects redistricting plans that may link Southwest Florida with any political districts on the east coast of Florida.

As an active member of the Marco Island Area Association of Realtors I support the position of the Board of Directors of this association that the representative for the 14th Congressional District shall be a resident of southwest Florida.

Sincerely,

Place your business
Card here.

This letter was submitted by Al DiNicola, President Elect, Naples Area Board of REALTORS, at the Redistricting Public Hearing, 6:00 PM, September 24, 2001, Naples High School Auditorium, Naples, Florida.

Similar letters submitted by 109 members of the Naples Area Board of REALTORS.



Bonita Bay Realty, Inc.

*Bonita Bay Realty
Naples Area Board of REALTORS®*

Johnnie Byrd, Chairman
House Procedural & Redistricting Council
The Capital, Room 418
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Re: Congressional Redistricting in Southwest Florida

Dear Chairman Byrd:

I am writing to add my support for the letter sent to you on July 26, 2001, by Naples Area Board of REALTORS® President John Steinwand, which said:

As the process of congressional redistricting proceeds in Florida, Naples Area Board of REALTORS® wishes to add their strong support for a compact, contiguous and truly representative district in Southwest Florida comprised of Collier and Lee Counties.

Such an alignment promulgates political fairness. It acknowledges that these communities are already integrated by joint regional representation in agencies, educational facilities, economic needs and similarities in geography. This alignment will respect the existing core of Congressional District 14, which has demonstrated that it is geographically compact and politically cohesive.

As an active member of the Naples Areas Board of REALTORS®, I support the position of the Board of Directors on this issue.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al DiNicola".

Al DiNicola
Broker
Bonita Bay Realty, Inc.